Fault Diagonosis Approach for WSN using Normal Bias Technique

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Abstract: In wireless sensor and actor networks (WSAN), the sensor nodes have a limitation on lifetime as they are equipped with non-chargeable batteries. The failure probability of the sensor node is influenced by factors like electrical dynamism, hardware disasters, communication inaccuracy and undesired environment situations, etc. Thus, fault tolerant is a very important and critical factor in such networks. Fault tolerance also ensures that a system is available for use without any interruption in the presence of faults. In this paper an improved fault tolerance scheme is proposed to find the probability of correctly identifying a faulty node for three different types of faults based on normal bias. The nodes fault status is declared based on its confidence score that depends on the threshold valve. The aim is to find the Correct Recognition Rate (CRR) and the False Fear Rate (FFR) with respect to the different error probability (p_s) introduced. The techniques, neighboring nodes, fault calculations, range and CRR for existing algorithm and proposed algorithm is also presented.

Keywords: Wireless Sensor and Actor Networks, Fault Tolerance, Normal Bias, Failure Probability, Correct Recognition Rate, False Fear Rate.

I. Introduction

Wireless sensor networks (WSN) consist of spatially distributed sensor nodes that can communicate with each other, the desired physical quantity such as temperature, sound, tremor, force, motion or noxious waste are measured by the sensors. The Sensors are devices with low cost and powered having limited energy for computation and wireless communication capabilities. WSNs are advantageous because the end devices are compact and rugged, requiring little power to operate and can be deployed for reliable, long term, remote operations. WSNs enabled numerous advanced monitoring and control application in environmental, biomedical, military and other applications. Some of the most common WSN applications include environmental analysis, physical health checking and device watching. The Communication in sensor networks is unpredictable and failure-prone due to which the network is said to be vulnerable. When the network is supporting more and more applications and services, the impact of failure of a network will be more obvious, so improving networks fault tolerance is practical and important.

Data delivery in sensor networks is inherently faulty and unpredictable. Failures in wireless sensor networks can occur for various reasons. First, sensor nodes are brittle, and they may fail due to exhaustion of batteries or damage by an external event. In addition, nodes may seize and communicate wrong readings because of environmental influence on their sensing components. Secondly, as in wireless ad hoc networks, the links are prone to failure, triggering network partitions and initiate active changes in network topology. The external object or environmental conditions may fail the links permanently or block temporarily. Packets may be ruined due to the flawed nature of communication. Third, congestion triggers packet loss, it is mainly because a number of nodes coinciding transitions from a power saving state to an active transmission state in response to an event-of-interest [1].

Conventional networks are not concerned with energy consumption due to the fact that wired networks are continuously powered and wireless ad hoc devices are recharged repeatedly. The protocols for these networks are aimed at achieving point-to-point reliability, whereas wireless sensor networks are concerned with reliable event detection. In sensor networks, node failure occur more frequently than wired, where servers, routers and client machines are assumed to operate normally, significant overhead is desired. The protocols in fixed network bank on handy MAC layer protocols that avoid packet collisions, hidden terminal problem and channel errors by using physical carrier sense (RTS/CTS) and virtual carrier sense (monitoring the channel); in wireless sensor networks. The protocols at the MAC layer have to meet additional challenges, such as synchronizing a node's sleeping and wake times, and it can only diminish the packet collision problem, but cannot give an absolutely solution. These remarks directs that new fault tolerant protocols are necessary for sensor applications to operate successfully and that these protocols should ensure reliable data delivery while minimizing energy consumption.

In customary distributed systems the nomenclature of different fault tolerant techniques used is [2]. Fault prevention: this is to avoid or prevent faults.2. Fault detection: this is to use different metrics to collect symptoms of possible faults.3. Fault isolation: this is to correlate different types of fault indications (Alarms) received and suggest different fault hypotheses.4. Fault identification: this is to test each of the proposed guesses in order to exactly localize and recognize faults.5. Fault recovery: this is to treat faults, i.e., reverse their adverse effects. There are techniques that address a combination of all these aspects. These techniques work at

diverse layers of the network protocol stack. Major fault avoidance procedures operate in the network layer, accumulation redundancy in forwarding paths; a majority of fault detection and recovery methods run at the transport layer; and a few fault recovery practices execute at the application layer, masking faults for the duration of off-line data processing. In WSNs the communication between sensors is less reliable, i.e. messages may be lost due to noise. Fault tolerance also ensures that a system is available for use without any interruption in the presence of faults; thus fault tolerance increases the reliability, availability and consequently dependability of the system.

Contribution: - In this paper FTNB is proposed. The paper addresses three different classes of faults that are the preset, balanced and unsymmetrical faults. The faulty nodes under these categories are identified effectively based on the normal bias.

Organization: - The paper is organized as follows. In section 1 introduction to fault management for wireless sensor networks is discussed. The literatures of various exiting schemes to handle fault tolerance are elaborated in section 2. In section 3 the proposed method for fault tolerance based on FTNB is presented. In section 4 the problem with algorithm and in section 5 results are discussed. The finishing remarks are specified in Section 6.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The problem of positioning or fixing a sensor network to guarantee a definite level of multipath connectivity between all nodes is discussed in [3]. To handle node catastrophes, a greedy and distributed algorithm that produces high-quality placements of additional sensors based on absolute minimum is considered. The optimal redundancy level that could satisfy QOS requirements while increasing the lifetime of the WSN is discussed by Ing-Ray Chen et al., [4]. Lifen Yuan et al., [5] used Neural Network for classifying faulty nodes; they concentrate on pre-processing functions of neural networks and used entropy and kurtosis as the two feature parameters to identify the faulty nodes. Hong Qiao et al., [6] proposed a novel method called a reference model approach to analyze the stability of dynamic network. Depending on whether the neural states or local field states are taken as basic variables, a dynamical neural network is divided into static neural network model and local field neural network model. In [7] fault tolerance using modified hausdroff distance method that determines the correct data range to be detected by the sensor nodes is discussed, the actor node makes use of the data range to identify a faulty node.

In [8] a group of tasks are assigned to the node pairs and the outcomes are compared by neighboring nodes. They use generalized comparison model (GCM) with neural network. The gatherings of all agreements and disagreements are used to identify the set of permanently faulty nodes. Kuo-Feng et al., [9] has proposed an approach where the data inconsistency failure is dealt by forwarding the data through multiple paths. To identify the suspicious node in the faulty

path, a sink node sends diffusion data packets back to the source node through both correct and faulty paths. Staddon et al., [10] proposed two approaches of resuming the network routing paths from the silent nodes (i.e., failed nodes) that are detected in each network routing update epoch. The particle swarm optimization algorithm to deal with fault coverage and also ensure network connectivity is discussed by Peng Li et al., [11]., According to this algorithm the nodes only in the fault region Participate in self-organized movement hence saving energy, and increase network lifetime. Duk-Jin Kim and B. Prabhakaran., [12] has proposed fault node detection algorithms for BSNs that work with different types of features extracted from a sensor node data based on node history and without node history. Stefano et al., [13] considered a solution to recover data loss after a node failure by duplicating and distributing redundant information of sensed data among other nodes in advance. Koushanfar et al., [14] suggested a heterogeneous back-up scheme for tolerating and healing the hardware malfunctions of a sensor node. The key idea is to adapt application algorithms and/or operating systems to match the available hardware and the requirements of the application. The online based distributed fault detection algorithm [15] for multiple sensors averages the history of samples reducing the detection delay for a fixed false alarm. Charu Virmani and Khushboo Garg [16] has discussed various existing adaptive fault tolerant algorithms and compared each of their effectiveness. In [17] dualweighted trust evaluation scheme to detect malicious and malfunctioning node for hierarchical sensor network is proposed. Trust values of sensor nodes are used as weights at the forwarding node to reflect the event.

A. Background

The fault tolerance using quartile method where correct sensor nodes are detected based on data discreteness has been proposed by Chiu-Ching Tuan et al., [18]. This method is applied for small network with automated structure having variable range and the correct recognition rate achieved is 93.9%. Chen J.R et al., [19] and Peng Jiang [20] have discussed distributed fault detection and improved distributed fault detection scheme for detecting faulty nodes. This method applies to semi-automated architecture with fixed range and small network resulting in a recognition rate of 94%.

III. PROPOSED METHODLOGY

In this section fault tolerance in wireless sensor and actor networks is built based on Normal Bias Method (FTNB) as shown in the Figure 1.

A. Network Initialization

Nine Hundred sensor nodes are randomly deployed in a 30*30 m area. All the nodes in the network have the same transmission range of e3m. The Nodes with faulty sensors and permanent communication faults (including lack of power) are to be identified, and to be removed or isolated from the network. Sensor nodes which generate incorrect sensing data or fail in communication intermittently are treated as

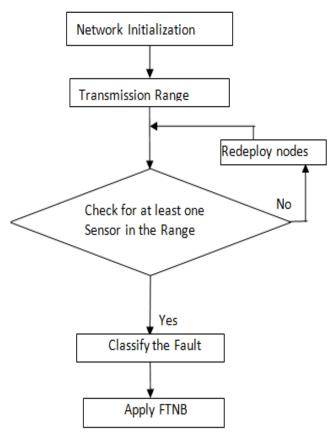


Fig.1.Flow Chart of FTNB

operational nodes, and thus are diagnosed as intermittently faulty, i.e nodes that misbehave occasionally and can be considered for communication. The node deployment should be such that at least one or more nodes are in the communication range of the source node as shown in figure 2; else the network should be redeployed till this condition is achieved.

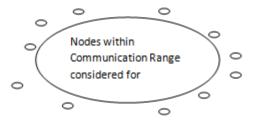


Fig. 2: Nodes within Range are listed for Communication

The placements of nodes are dense and due to this the spatial correlations are satisfied. For each fault-free sensor node its neighbouring fault-free sensor nodes have similar sensing values. Let v_{-i} and v_{-j} be neighbours of each other and x_{-i} denote the sensed data at node v_{-i} . Then the condition to be satisfied by v_{-i} and v_{-j} is $|x_{-i} - x_{-j}| <= \Delta$ where ' Δ ' may vary depending on the applications. For example if the monitored parameter is temperature then two neighbour sensors should exhibit similar valve where in the difference i.e ' Δ ' will be very small approximately 0.3.

B. Classify Faults

Fault may occur at different levels of WSN, such as

physical layer, hardware, system software, and middleware. As sensors are most prone to malfunction, the focus is on the fault-free sensors, i.e nodes are able to communicate and process when their sensors are faulty. Taking account of sensor measurements, the following sensor fault models are considered: (i) Preset fault, a fault sensor constantly report a preset valve. (ii) Balance fault, the measured data of a faulty sensor is manifested as a calibration offset to the right value. (iii) Unsystematic fault, the measured data of a faulty sensor is affected by a zero-mean noise with high variance.

C. Fault Tolerance by Normal Bias Method

Any sensors v_i is detecting or sensing valve x_i . The node v_i has a set of 'N' neighbors that also sense valve given by $x_{j,(j=1,2,3...N)}$ and their corresponding bias are λ_{j} - $_{(j=1,2,3...N)}$. The normal bias can now be calculated using the following equation (1).

$$X_{i} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N} ((\lambda_{j} X_{j}))}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} (\lambda_{j})}$$
 (1)

A reward function shown in equation (2) is defined based on the sensed and normalized valve. The reward function then decides the confidence score. Initially the confidence score is set to a maximum valve then it is decremented in each round. If the confidence score is reduced to zero the node is declared faulty.

$$f(x_iX_i)=\begin{cases} 0, if |x_i-X_i| \leq \Delta \\ 1, \dots else \ where \end{cases}$$
 (2)

In order to measure the correctness of the detected faults two parameter alpha and beta are defined. Where alpha represents the faulty nodes and beta represents the fault free nodes detected as faulty. Using these parameters the performance of the algorithm in terms of correct recognition rate and the false fear rate are measured.

IV. ALGORITHM

Problem Definition: The FTNB is used to categorize the type of fault and also detect the faulty node. The actor node based on the received valve performs appropriate action by either discarding or accepting data from an intended node. The objective is to detect nodes that read faulty valves by collecting the neighbour node valves and also identified the fault class of the node. The fault reading nodes are isolated from transmitting the faulty valves to the actor temporarily or permanently based on the type of fault class. The implementation steps of FTNB algorithm is discussed in the Table I.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The performance of the proposed method is evaluated by MATLAB version 7.7b R2008. For simulation it is assumed that faults are independent of each other. Nine Hundred sensor nodes are deployed randomly in a network area of 30*30m. The nodes only within the transmission range of "3 participate in communication. The neighbour nodes list for a source is generated based on the normal bias and the

TABLE I: PROPOSED FTNB ALGORITHM

Data:	A list of node array within range, num2str (i) {I varying				
	from 1: N}				
Result:	An estimate of correct recognition rate and false fear				
	rate.				
Begin: Count=0					
{For i=1:1: ρ (time instance for each node)					
For j=1: N					
x _i = Reading from Sensor					
ls =Randomly generated Neighbour list					
Random list of faulty nodes=list					
For K=1: length (ls)					
Set initial confidence score=1					
Find X _i					
If $f(x_i, X_i)$ >threshold					
Decrement confidence score					
If $f(x_i, X_i)$ =threshold					
Return (faulted node)}					
For i=1: size (faulted node, 1)					
kk=result of the comparison between (faulted node, list)					
If is empty(kk)					
Returns (0)					
Faulty free detected faulty = Faulty free detected faulty +1					
Else					
Returns (1)					
Faulty node =Faulty node+1					
End					
CRR= Faul	CRR= Faulty node / (size (list, 1))				

confidence score set. The performance parameters such as Correct Recognition Rate (CRR) and False Fear Rate (FFR) are used to evaluate the algorithm.

FFR= Fault free detected as faulty / (node-size(list,1))

(i)Correct Recognition Rate: It is defined as the ratio of the number of faulty sensor nodes detected to the total number of faulty nodes as shown in Equation 3.

$$CRR = \frac{No. \ of \ fault \ Sensor \ nodes \ detected(a)}{No. \ of \ sensor \ nodes \ actually \ faulty (N+p_e)}$$
(3)

Where N is the number of nodes deployed and p_e is the error probability. Typically the value of CRR should be 1 but, as probability increases CRR drops.

(ii)False Fear Rate: It is defined as the of the number of fault-free sensor nodes diagnosed as faulty to the total number of fault-free nodes as shown in Equation 4.

$$FRR = \frac{No. of fault free Sensors detected faulty(\beta)}{No. of actual fault free Sensor nodes(N*(1-p_c))}$$
(4)

Ideally the value of FFR should be 0 but, as error probability increases FFR increases. The error probability to the network is varied from 0.05 to 0.3. -If theerror is increased beyond 0.3 then the CRR decreases and FFR increases that will drop the performance of the algorithm below 90%.

Table II shows the CRR and FFR for three categories of faults for a failure ratio of 0.2. The performance of the algorithm depends on the number of sensors nodes deployed in the event area, the failure ratio introduced the defined threshold and the type of fault as the each fault is independent of the

TABLE II: COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF FAULTS

Fault Category	Preset Fault	Balanced Fault	Unsystematic Fault
No of Nodes in Transmission Range and Source ID	388	507	377
Neighbor List ID	52,158, 240,262, 378,545, 885	116,308, 361,425, 491, 782	80,135,184, 248,257,276,487, 610,672
Faulty Nodes	178	173	162
Fault Free detected Faulty	2	7	18
FFR	0.052	0.060	0.058
CRR	0.9778	0.9887	0.9722

other. For each fault condition and a failure probability the node reads for 20 time instances. The source node and its neighbour list is short listed. The percentages of nodes that are fault free and faulty are calculated depending on number of nodes deployed and node failure introduced to calculate FFR and CRR.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 shows the results of CRR and FFR (figure of merit) for different error probabilities valves introduced. It is observed from the graph that network can sustain faults up to 0.2 error probability and show Correct Recognition Rate of above 95% and maintaining the False Fear Rate below 0.05 for the preset and balanced fault while below 0.1 for unsystematic fault due its random nature. The different failure probability levels help in handling different type of faults like preset, balanced and unsystematic faults. To reduce the size of the exchange message a neighbor list is prepared, by this node location and every sensor reading message size is avoided ie., only those nodes in the neighbor list will be eligible for communications is reduced that in turn reduces the energy spent by the node. Here the nodes communicate only with nodes in its fault tolerance range. The message exchange is between the node and neighbor nodes and this does not require routing protocol there by contributing to network lifetime by minimal communication.

A. Preset fault

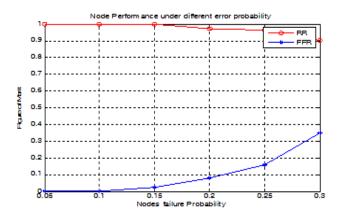


Fig.3: Variation of CRR and FFR (Preset Fault) with Error Probability

B. Balance fault

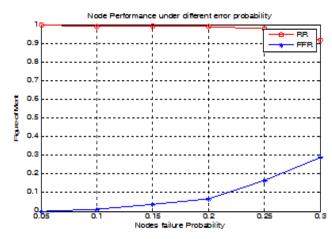


Fig.4: Variation of CRR and FFR (Balance fault) with Error Probability

C. Unsystematic fault

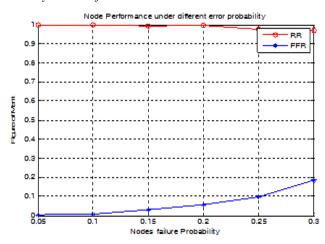


Fig.5: Variation of CRR and FFR (Unsystematic fault) with Error Probability

Variation of CRR and FFR with the Number of Nodes

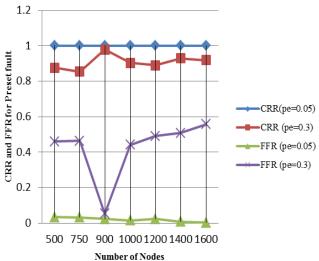


Fig.6: Variation of CRR and FFR (Preset Fault) with the Number of Nodes

Variation of CRR and FFR with the Number of Nodes

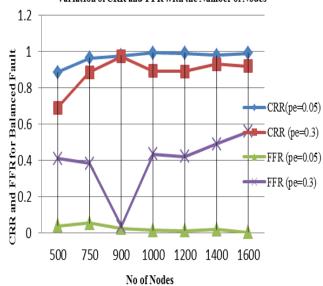


Fig.7: Variation of CRR and FFR (Balanced Fault) with the Number of Nodes

Variation of CRR and FFR with the Number of Nodes

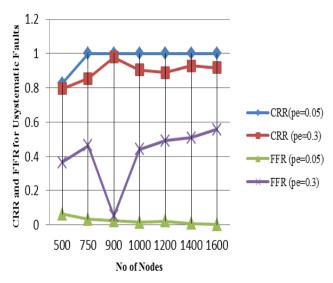


Fig 8: Variation of CRR and FFR (Unsystematic Fault) with the Number of Nodes

Figure 6, 7 and 8 shows the variation of CRR and FFR for varying number of node deployment keeping the communication range constant at "3 for all the three types of faults. It is observed that the algorithm performs better for lower error probability. The FFR increases as error probability increases as more number of sensors misbehaves.

Figure 9, 10, and 11 show the variation of CRR and FFR keeping the number of nodes constant ie., for node deployment valve of 900 nodes and varying the range of communication for the all three category of faults. It is observed that the results are best obtained from the algorithm for a node deployment of 900 when the range is "3 and the error is 0.05. The performance of the algorithm drops with error of 0.3, as the number of fault free sensors detected as faulty increases.

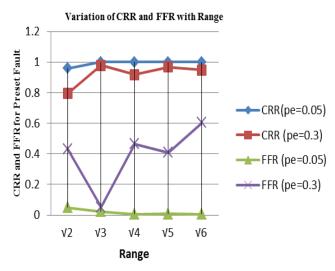


Fig.9: Variation of CRR and FFR (Preset Fault) with Range

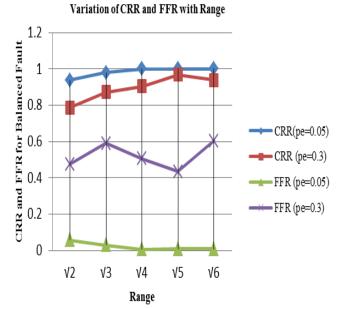


Fig.10: Variation of CRR and FFR (Balance fault) with Range

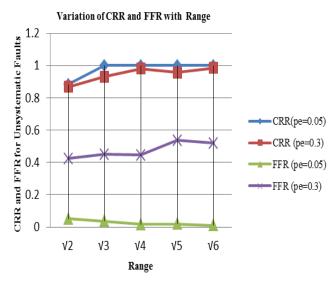


Fig.11: Variation of CRR and FFR (Unsystematic fault) with the Range

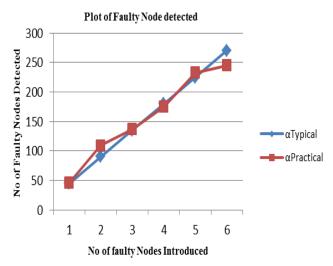


Fig.12: Plot of No of Actual Faulty Nodes Vs No faulty Nodes detected

Figure 12 shows the number of faulty nodes introduced to the number of faulty nodes detected. It is observed the number of faulty nodes detected is almost equal to the number of faulty nodes introduced. Hence our algorithm is better.

Plot of false fear with error introduced β Theoritical β Practical β Practical β Practical From Probability (p_e)

Fig.13: Plot of No of Fault Free Nodes detected faulty

Figure 13 shows the plot of number of fault free sensors detected as faulty. It is observed that the number of fault free sensors detected as faulty is very low up to error probability of 0.15 and the number of fault free sensors detected as faulty increases very much as the error probability is increased from 0.15 to 0.3.

The techniques, fault calculations, neighbouring nodes, range and CRR for existing algorithm and proposed algorithm are tabulated in Table 3. The Chiu Ching Tuan et al.,[18] used AFTM technique for fault calculation and CRR. Chen et al.,[19] proposed DFD technique with fixed range of communication to compute fault calculation and CRR. Peng Jiang [20] discussed improved DFD technique for fixed range of communication and for smaller network size to compute CRR. It is observed that the percentage CRR is 97% in the proposed algorithm compared to the less percentage CRR valves in the existing algorithms. Hence the proposed algorithm is better in Correct Recognition Rate compared to existing algorithm.

Methods Techniques/ Fault Calculation Neighbour Network Node Involved Range CRR Architecture Nodes in Fault Calculation Involved 93.9% Chiu-Ching Tuan et al., [18] AFTM/Automated No Actor Node Variable Averaging and comparing Small with allowable threshold Chen et al ., [19] DFD/Semi-Local comparisons are Yes Small Source Node Fixed 83% Automated made and supported by majority voting Peng Jiang [20] Local comparisons are Yes Source Node Fixed 94% Improved Small DFD/Semimade and supported by Automated majority voting. Ozaki et al ., [21] FTQM/Automated No Actor Node Variable 80.1% Data is sorted and then Small divided into four regions(Quartile) Proposed FTNB Source Node Proposed FTNB Normal Bias of the Yes large Fixed 97% /Semi-Automated neighbor nodes defines the confidence score.

TABLE III: COMPARISON OF PROPOSED WITH EXISTING ALGORITHMS

VI. CONCLUSION

In WSAN it becomes very important to cater to sensing faults and also to distinguish between various kinds of faults and build a reliable fault tolerant strategy suitable to its class. In this paper FTNB algorithm for fault tolerance is proposed. The nodes should have at least one neighbour node so that the detected valve can be compared or be in the region of valves emitted from all the neighbour nodes. Based on the received normal the confidence score of the node is varied. This decides the correctness of the node. The proposed method has a low implementation complexity and gives better results in terms Correct Recognition Rate and False Fear Rate for varying error probabilities. In future FTNB can be integrated with communication link fault tolerance mechanism.

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